

**Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Executive Committee Mtg. – Friday, 6 January 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
Dane County Highway Garage, 2302 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI**

1. **The Chair, Steve Foye, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call (Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting):**

Crawford	2nd VC	Tom Cornford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock (cont)	Sec.	Marshall Bown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ted Sheckler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			William Agnew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Ron Leys	<input type="checkbox"/>			Phil Blazkowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dane	Treas.	Forrest Van Schwartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sauk	2nd Treas.	Larry Volz	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Gene Gray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Robert Sinklair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Jim Haefs-Flemming	<input type="checkbox"/>			Joel Gaalswijk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grant	2nd Sec.	Lois Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walworth		Marty Krueger	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Velma Weadge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Advocate	vacant	
		Marion Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tim Buchheit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	Chair	Steve Foye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waukesha		Richard Kuhnke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Phil Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/>			Karl Nilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Charles Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>		1st VC	Richard Manke	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock		Henry Schoeberle	<input type="checkbox"/>			Robert Thelen	<input type="checkbox"/>

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Joni Graves (SWWRPC Transportation Planner / WRRTC staff); Jim Matzinger (Dane County CPA / WRRTC staff); Frank Huntington, Roger Larson, and Jim Tracy (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Steve Sonntan (City of Madison).

3. **Motion accepting Graves' certification of public notice / Nilson / Sinklair / Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Motion approving the Agenda / Nilson / Kuhnke / Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Draft Minutes from the December meeting were distributed and action was deferred to the January 2006 mtg.

Follow-Up: Approval of the December 2006 draft Minutes will be on the February 2006 Agenda.

REPORTS

6. **WSOR Monthly Operator's Report** – Ken Lucht, WSOR.
Later this month WSOR's rail repair car will follow the inspection car and be able to make on-the-spot repairs. Lucht reported there has been increased activity on the west end with Milk Specialties in Boscobel, Riverdale Ag in Muscoda, and shipping to a new business in Edgerton is now at projections. AB512 - the yield sign bill - has been signed by Governor Doyle, successfully concluding a five-year effort. Some discussion followed about activities on the PDC line, the ICE line through the Janesville area, and vacated trackage in Madison.
7. **WisDOT Updates** – Frank Huntington and Roger Larson, WisDOT.
Huntington' provided an update on the bridge study, which has been slowed somewhat due to cold weather, and is now anticipated to be done in May (rather than March), but most of the physical inspections have been done. The pavement study, with the MRUTC, is underway and they have gotten some info from WisDOT, WSOR, and other sources – it's getting a good start and is anticipated to be done later in the year. Follow-up on encroachment issues will be in the spring, when the snow is off the ground; there was no update on the encroachment issue that had been identified in Crawford County. WisDOT staff has made recommendations for the grant program to Secretary Busalacchi's office and they have been sent to the Governor's office; announcements are expected later this month with funding for six or seven projects. Huntington also provided an update on the status of the WisDOT application to the STB to acquire the Watertown Line, explaining that the amendments were drafted, signed, and submitted.
8. **Administrative Staff Report** – Joni Graves, SWWRPC / WRRTC staff.
The Commission vacancy from Dane County has been filled; Walworth is in the process of recruitment. The Commission is seeking volunteers to fill its two vacancies on the Railroad Coordinating Committee. There was no update on the Spring Grove Feed Mill site. Graves distributed an updated version of the survey she had conducted with County Clerks, re each County's policy on per diem payments; discussion followed and it was suggested that the Commission could retain this as an option, if an individual was not paid by their County. Huntington said that historically the Counties have paid per diem expenses for their appointees, since members represent their counties.

Motion authorizing the WRRTC to pay per diem as a last resort, and on a case-by-case basis, if the Commissioner's County will not pay / Nilson / Sinklair / Motion passed unanimously.

Follow-Up: Matzinger will get more info, in response to further questions re Dane County's per diem policy, and provide sample documentation

Graves and Lucht had provided a brief update on their work to prepare a federal appropriations funding application for the Prairie du Chien Line, as authorized at the December meeting

9. WRRTC Financials & Contracts – Jim Matzinger, Dane County / WRRTC staff.

Matzinger presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2005 and went through the spread sheets for Assets, Liabilities & Capital and a summary of Year-End Revenue & Expenses To-date; the year has not been closed out yet, so there may be some other expenses. He clarified the status of WSOR's outstanding obligation, noting that the railroad is in arrears for its lease payment and reimbursement of the taxes for the Illinois property.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, and to pay the one bill from Dane County for \$652.08 (November accounting and 2005 storage) / Gray / Sheckler / Motion passed unanimously.

Matzinger presented a spreadsheet with the Proposed 2006 Budget for Operating Costs and Rehab Project Costs. Commissioners thanked him for his work and commended the budget.

Motion to approve the 2006 budget, as presented / Nilson / Weadge / Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION BUSINESS & PROPERTY ISSUES

- 10. Removal / Relocation of Rail Spur in Mazomanie** – Foye said he had spoken with Village of Mazomanie staff and they will draft an Agreement and forward it to Graves so it can be distributed in advance and be on February's Agenda. Van Schwartz said he had met with the Village, WSOR, and a contractor and will have an estimate of costs which would be borne by the Village; the Village has filed their application for the Tax Incentive Zone; and there are some vest pocket agreements related to salvage and other issues. Gray had no additional comments. Foye said it would be a good idea for the sub-committee to meet in February and asked Graves to recommend one or more possible dates.
- 11. The Watertown Line** – Huntington thanked Graves for having this on the Agenda, and said that no further action was necessary.
- 12. Spring Grove Feed Mill site** – no update.
- 13. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m. – a new record for the commission, it was said.**

Follow-Up: Following the meeting, Gene Gray volunteered to be on Railroad Coordinating Committee.